



# United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
South Central Region  
P. O. Box 26124

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6124

RECEIVED

OCT 15 1981

TO: J. L. LAGUNA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

October 14, 1981

Mr. William E. Grey  
Manager, Project Planning  
The Anaconda Copper Company  
555 Seventeenth Street  
Denver, Colorado 80217

Dear Mr. Grey:

This office has been advised of Anaconda's decision to withdraw the proposed reclamation Plan for the Jackpile-Paguate Mine, and of the estimated resubmittal date of June 1, 1982. We find no justification for this action. Anaconda's stated reason for withdrawing the plan is that the relocation of State Highway 279 through the mine would impact Anaconda's plan. However, this issue was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties during a September 17, 1981, meeting in which Anaconda participated.

It was our understanding that Anaconda considered the reclamation plan submitted on September 11, 1980, to be an adequate proposal, and in compliance with 25 CFR 177 and 30 CFR 231. Anaconda's decision that the existing plan is inadequate, and the subsequent withdrawal of the plan, brings the approval process to an immediate halt.

The delay caused by your action will have an adverse impact on the employment situation of the Pueblo of Laguna. When viewed in human terms, this impact cannot be taken lightly. The delay will also increase Anaconda's reclamation costs.

If the reclamation plan is not resubmitted until June 1982, approximately 18 months will be required to complete the EIS process. However, the EIS could be prepared within a much shorter time frame if the existing plan were resubmitted. We are willing to work with Anaconda to facilitate any

modifications of the existing plan if they are provided on a timely basis. We hope you will consider this approach, and choose to work with the involved parties towards a mutually acceptable completion of this project.

Sincerely yours,

*fr* (ORIG. SGD.) RAY A. SANDY  
Edward T. Sandell, Jr.  
Deputy Conservation Manager-  
Mining

cc:  
DDC--Onshore Mins. Reg., MS 650  
Bill Allan, BIA  
Gov. Early, Pueblo of Laguna  
Task Force Leader--Jackpile-Paguate EIS  
DCM--Mining - File: ACE 8-1  
Chrono

MENelson:ab: 10-14-81